

PRACTICAL DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LIVER DISEASE—Carroll Moton Leevy, M.D., Director of Clinical Investigation, Director of the Outpatient Department Jersey City Medical Center. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd St., New York 16, N. Y. 1957. 335 pages, \$8.50.

This book is a monograph embodying Leevy's experiences with liver disease. It reports the observations and conclusions of a coordinated hospital and outpatient study for long-term evaluation of patients with liver disease at the Jersey City Medical Center. The author describes what he calls a composite approach to liver disease based on the determination of etiology, clinical status, biochemical function and histopathology. The book shows a deep interest in the broader aspects of hepatic physiology and in the pathogenesis of liver disease. The therapy is as up-to-date as the author's experience.

There are four basic causes of liver injury, each of which produces similar clinical, biochemical, and morphologic changes in the end stages. Nutritional deficiency and metabolic disturbances, noxious factors, biliary obstruction and infection, and circulatory congestion or anoxia may all eventually lead to death of parenchymal cells, inflammation, increased fibroblastic activity, liver cell regeneration, and bile duct proliferation. The degree of injury and host resistance are the major determinants of the ultimate pathologic changes. The major contributing cause of liver disease in Leevy's series of 1,000 patients was nutritional deficiency and metabolic error (680 cases). Infections and toxic agents were the cause in 100, circulatory impairment in 120 and malignancy in 70 cases.

Much of the text and many of the illustrations and extracts in this book are from the author's own work rather than from other significant work in the literature. While there are other books which furnish more complete references and detail to the physician or investigator, this is a sound one and makes good reading for the student or practitioner who wishes to survey the field of liver disease. It can be useful also to other workers who wish to investigate the details of a coordinated patient study.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.

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HEMORRHAGIC DISEASES—Armand J. Quick, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Marquette University School of Medicine. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1957. 451 pages, \$9.50.

This is a work by one of the world's most experienced students of the hemorrhagic diseases, and strikes a very acceptable balance between the clinical aspects and the laboratory aspects of these disorders. The experts in this field are an expressive lot and many authorities have contributed such a volume as this in recent years. They are all by and large excellent, but each bears the stigma peculiar to this field; namely, each authority holds concepts and uses terms that are indigenous to his own laboratory. Perhaps this is less a recrimination against the workers in a particular field than against the abstruse nature of the field itself. At any rate, Dr. Quick is no exception to this observation, and uses terms that almost no one else uses. For example, such terms as "prothrombinogen," and "thromboplastinogen" (in the sense of a single entity), are cases in point. There are alternative concepts to the necessity of proposing a prothrombin precursor which received rather scant attention in the text. Another disturbing feature is the expression of achieving a certain hemostatic effect in hemophilia with so many cc. of plasma. One of the chief concerns at the present time in the treatment of hemophilia is, of course, the great variation in antihemophilic globulin content of plasma the hemophilic is likely to receive. It has become

apparent that antihemophilic globulin is preserved rather poorly even in the frozen state. Hence, alluding to the proper treatment of hemophilia in terms of cc. of plasma rather than in terms of effective antihemophilic globulin content is unsatisfactory.

Despite some exceptions this reviewer has taken to certain expressions and prejudices in this book, it is well organized and written, and well balanced for the purposes of student, practitioner, and laboratory worker alike.

WILLIAM P. CREGER, M.D.

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EPILEPSY—Grand Mal, Petit Mal, Convulsions—Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 East 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1957. 159 pages, \$4.75.

This small volume was written by an English physician who has obviously had a great deal of experience in caring for patients with epilepsy. It presents in simple terms almost all of the factual information we have in regard to this symptom and deals clearly and accurately with measures known to be of use in its treatment. Equally, the sociological aspects of epilepsy are considered in a matter-of-fact and nonemotional manner. Her introductory sentence to her chapter on treatment "There is nothing anyone can do for the epileptic so valuable as ridding him of his fits" is characteristic of the author's good sense throughout the book. One might be inclined to take exception to her conclusion that the epileptic on the highway is a very small factor in traffic accidents, but one would agree that the factor was small in relation to the hazards from drunken drivers.

This book can be read with profit by every physician who has an epileptic patient. Equally, it can be recommended to the more intelligent epileptic patient and the parents of patients with epilepsy. Gauged to the British scene, the amount of its insular content is not so great as to reduce its value to American physicians.

HENRY W. NEWMAN, M.D.

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MODERN THERAPY IN NEUROLOGY—Edited by Francis M. Forster, M.D., Dean and Professor of Neurology, Georgetown University School of Medicine, The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1957. 792 pages, \$12.00.

That a book of almost 800 pages should be written on treatment in neurology should be ample refutation of the claim of many practitioners of medicine that neurology is purely a diagnostic specialty having no treatment potential. The book consists of 18 chapters by as many authors. These are all recognized authorities in their field. As in any such book with a large number of authors there is a certain amount of lack of uniformity in the presentation. This is unavoidable and is probably compensated for by the greater detail which can be provided by authorities in the various fields. The editor has asked his contributors to avoid material other than therapeutic, but where such material is inevitable to present effectively the method of treatment it is set in smaller type. The amount of bibliography varies with the different chapters, but in general is quite adequate.

It is a little hard to see just what class of physician this book would be most useful to. The degree of detail is such as possibly to be oppressive to the internist or general practitioner dealing with an uncomplicated neurological condition, while the neurologist might be expected to be familiar already with the material presented, if qualified to practice in his specialty. Certainly it is not a book to be read through systematically, but rather may find a place as a reference work in neurological treatment.

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